

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a), the Examiner's position being that the first and second radially inwardly, projecting annularly extending lips formed on the first and second annular flange portions of the liner (Claim 2) were not shown. The Examiner's attention is directed to Fig. 4 where the lips 12b and 12c are clearly shown. Further, Claim 2 has now been amended to delete the language regarding the lips extending from the first and second annular flange portions as opposed to the liner simply having first and second radially inwardly, projecting annularly extending lips. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no drawing corrections are required and that the rejections under §112 have been overcome.

Turning to the art rejections, Claims 1, 2, 5, 9 and 11 stand rejected as being anticipated by *Mahew* ('407 Patent). Claim 1, as amended, has incorporated the limitations of Claims 4, 7, and 8. Thus, Claim 1 calls for the liner to have an upper, open end forming an entrance into the valve element cavity, the upper open end defining a seal pocket, there being an elastomeric seal disposed in the pocket and a yoke adapter secured to the housing, the elastomeric seal being sized such that when the yoke adapter is secured to the housing, the elastomeric seal ring is forced into compression, effectively urging it into tight engagement with the valve element. No such structure is shown or disclosed in the '407 Patent. Accordingly, the '407 Patent clearly does not anticipate Claim 1 and claims dependent thereon. Indeed, the Examiner recognizes that the '407 Patent does not show the yoke adapter and its relationship to the elastomeric seal disposed in the seal pocket of the liner.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8-11 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the '407 Patent in view of *Mahew* ('365 Patent). The rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner has taken the position that both the '407 and '365 Patents disclosed the seal pocket, the seal, and the yoke adapter.

To begin with, this position is contrary to the Examiner's position regarding the anticipatory nature of the '407 Patent in the rejection set out in paragraph 7 of the Office Action. As noted above, the '407 Patent does not disclose a seal pocket, an elastomeric seal and a yoke adapter in the combination set forth in amended Claim 1. With respect to the '365 Patent, that reference does nothing to cure the infirmities of the '407 Patent. Specifically, the '365 Patent, like the '407 Patent, does not disclose a liner forming a seal pocket, an elastomer seal in the seal pocket and a yoke adapter attached to the body of the valve, which places the elastomer seal under compression when the yoke adapter is secured to the valve body. Accordingly, it is clear that the combination of the '407 and '365 Patents do not render any of the claims unpatentable.

Lastly, Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 stand rejected as obvious over the combined teachings of the '407 Patent, the '365 Patent and *Stillwagon* ('841 Patent.) This rejection is also respectfully traverse. As is the case of the prior references, the '841 Patent does not show a liner that has a pocket for a seal, a sized, elastomeric seal disposed in the pocket and a yoke adapter that compressively urges the seal into engagement with the valve element. Indeed, with respect to all of the cited references none disclose a yoke adapter separate from a yoke. Thus, items 12a and 12b of the '407 Patent are part of the body of the valve and do not form a separate yoke adapter. With respect to the '365 Patent, a like situation applies since the frame 16 is of one piece construction and does not have anything remotely resembling the yoke adapter. Lastly, with respect to the '841 Patent, to the extent that casing or bonnet housing 9 would, for purposes of argument, be considered to be a yoke adapter, it clearly does not engage an elastomeric seal positioned in the pocket of a valve liner such that when the yoke adapter is attached to the housing of the valve, it can compressively force the elastomeric seal ring in the valve pocket into sealing engagement with the valve element.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of Claim 13. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is also respectfully submitted that all other claims remaining in the application are likewise in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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By: 